

## **VSH Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**

May 20, 2009, 1:30 pm

Nursing Classroom

**Type of meeting:** Oversight

**Facilitator:** Michael Hartman, Commissioner of Mental Health

**Note taker:** Denise McCarty

**Steering Committee Members:** Paul Dupre, Patrick Flood, (Designee for Secretary Robert Hofmann); Dr. William McMains; Ann Moore, Kate Purcell, Terry Rowe, VSH Executive Director, Dr. Thomas Simpatico (for partial mtg), Beth Tanzman (Deputy Commissioner of Mental Health); VSH Medical Director.

**Attendees:** Sherry Cassano (for partial meeting); Jessica Oski, DMH Legal Department; Joan Senecal, Commissioner of DAIL, Michael Sabourin

### **Discussed: Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The April meeting minutes were reviewed by the Steering Committee. William McMains made a motion to accept the minutes. Patrick Flood seconded the motion. All in favor.

### **Discussed: Executive Director's Report (with Terry Rowe)**

Survey Updates:

DOJ Survey- The Department of Justice Survey report will be out soon from their site survey in May. The only serious concern they had was closure of the Treatment Mall, otherwise, the feedback they gave was positive.

SAMSHA Survey- SAMSHA made a site visit in January and their report was just released. They had many different recommendations.

CMS Survey – CMS conducted a survey during the first week of April. Their first recommendation was to deny certification of VSH. However, Richard Shaw from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid office in Boston, MA sent a letter notifying Terry that the initial decision had been reversed and CMS would allow VSH to submit a Plan of Correction. A plan of correction needs to be submitted by May 29<sup>th</sup> (10 days from the reversed decision).

Terry traveled to Washington, DC for a NASMHPD Conference. The trip was funded by the SAMSHA grant. Anne Jerman is developing a Comfort Room at VSH, one room for each floor. These rooms will be designated for patients who want to go to a space for quiet time, to de-escalate, etc.

The in-house census has been very high in the last month. We currently have 52 patients.

(End of Executive Director's Report)

**Presentation by Sherry Cassano, Nursing Operations Coordinator/Scheduling Supervisor**

Sherry Cassano made a presentation to the Steering Committee regarding the drivers of overtime usage at VSH.

Discussion followed.

**Discussed: Quality Assurance Department (with Tommie Murray, Quality Assurance Chief)**

There was no Quality Assurance Department report today because Tommie Murray is working on the plan of correction response.

(End of Quality Assurance Report)

**Discussed: Medical Director's Report with Tom Simpatico.**

The census is hovering around approximately 50 patients.

(End of Medical Director's Report)

**Discussed: Commissioner's Report (with Michael Hartman, Commissioner)**

Due to time constraints with the overtime presentation, Michael did not give an update.

**Oher Business –**

Ann Moore stated that she was frustrated that VSH information is published before she is notified of it. She would like to be added to the announcement list serves so that she gets notified prior to any press releases.

**Public Comment** – Joan Senecal, Commissioner at DAIL mentioned that a clinical nurse from DAIL was making a presentation on long term clinical care waivers. A suggestion that there might be parallels between FAHC protocols and what VSH intends to submit to CMS for the plan of correction, concerns that topics discussed at current Steering Committee meetings have not changed over the years.

Meeting adjourned at 3:02 pm. The next meeting of the VSH Steering Committee will be June 17, 2009 at 1:30 pm in the VSH Nursing Classroom.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise McCarty  
Minute Taker